

Senior Week... It's worth it; we promise!
By Greg Johnson

At the end of our final year at Ithaca College, the members of the graduating class can prepare for a weeklong celebration of their years of hard work. This celebration is better known as IC Senior Week, and will take place during the week between final exams and graduation. Each year, as any co-chair, past or present, will tell you, Senior Week announcements are always met with a combination of excitement and negativity. This negativity almost always extends from two overwhelming topics — the price of a Senior Week pass and the fact that students must pay for their own alcohol.

As a senior co-chair, and a former junior co-chair, I have heard many of these complaints first hand. When the other co-chairs and I began planning Senior Week 2014, and now 2015, we must face the reality that hosting events of this scale is not cheap.

We realize that during college, especially at the end of our last semester, that \$110 dollars sounds like a lot of money. We've heard time and time again that people think this is too much to pay for their Senior Week. Many people even ask us why they have to pay for a pass at all, believing that all seniors should be able to attend Senior Week for free.

Unfortunately, this is not possible. Each year, the six events that make up Senior Week cost the committee around \$110,000. Of that \$110,000, only \$50,000 is allocated from the school's student activity fund. The rest of the \$60,000 must come from Senior Week pass sales. Strictly from a numbers point of view, the sticker price placed on Senior Week is necessary so that we as the committee are able to provide the level of entertainment the senior class expects, and the quality of events that they have earned as their final send off from Ithaca College.

The other co-chairs and I, however, have made considerable efforts to make these events as affordable and accessible as possible, without losing the quality of any event. The best way that we have been able to do this is by offering an incentive to purchase a senior card. We currently have a deal in place that any senior card holder will receive 50 percent off of the Senior Week pass. By paying \$35 for a senior card, you instantly save \$55 on your Senior Week pass — an instant \$20 savings! Not only that, but the \$35 you paid for your senior card gives you access to a host of other discounts, and helps fund the rest of the events put on by the senior class! From there, if you consider what the average cost of two concerts, a cocktail hour, formal dance, barbecue and movie would cost, as well as food and transportation to and from each event, the cost would surely exceed \$110.

Another comment we often hear is that our events should feature an open bar. Many seniors feel that their pass should pay for everything for the entire week. Again, this is unfortunately impossible. This is primarily due to the various rules and policies at

Ithaca College. One of the school's most heavily policed regulations is that college funds cannot be used to purchase alcohol.

An additional consideration would be the significant cost alcohol would add to Senior Week. If the average number of students from years past were to buy Senior Week passes, each event would have about 700 participants. Assuming each student receives three drinks at catering service's average price of \$5, that would add a cost of \$15 per student and close to \$10,000, which is close to the total cost of several events already.

There would also be the consideration that many students make the conscious decision to not drink alcohol. If the committee were to roll the cost of alcohol into Senior Week passes, we would ultimately be forcing students who made the decision not to drink pay for alcohol.

While many students may feel otherwise, offering a cash bar at events is the fairest, and only way to have any event involving alcohol through the College.

Although it may come with a bit of sticker shock, Senior Week is the graduating class's last opportunity to unite and make memories together as Ithaca College students. It is offered by the school as a tribute to our years of hard work and meant to be a time of celebration, and the entire Senior Week Committee hopes that you will join us from May 11 until we graduate on May 17 to experience the events that we have spent the last year planning for you.

Best,
Greg Johnson
IC Senior Week senior co-chair.